

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 /056 W

-----085447 240025Z /12

R 231356Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2668

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, BC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA INAUGURATES NEW TANNERY AND CANNERY

1. ON AUGUST 22 PRESIDENT KHAMA OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED THE BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION S (BMC) NEW TANNERY AND CANNERY, LOCATED NEAR THE BMC S LOBATSE ABATTOIR. THE CEREMONIES WERE HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF MOST HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MANY INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AND RELATED BUSINESSMEN FROM BOTSWANA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND SEVERAL THOUSAND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

2. THE TANNERY IS DESIGNED AT PRESENT TO PRODUCE SOME 600 'WET BLUE' HIDES, WHICH WOULD REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF THE ABATTOIR S MAXIMUM PRODUCTION, GOB WOULD LIKE TO INTEREST AS YET UNSPECIFIED SHOE FIRM IN BUILDING FACTORY TO USE BMC S TANNED LEATHER, AND IF DEMAND WARRANTS PRODUCTION OF THE TANNERY COULD BE DOUBLED TO 12,000 HIDES DAILY QUITE SAFELY. THE CANNERY IS AT PRESENT PRODUCING 25,000 CANS (375 GRAMS) OF HIGH QUALITY CORNED BEEF DAILY, PRODUCTION CAN BE INCREASED TO 50 OR 60 THOUSAND CANS DAILY.

3. BOTH ENTERPRISES ARE DESIGNED TO USE PART OF BMC ABATTOIR

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PRODUCTION, THEREBY LESSENING, TO SOME EXTENT, BOTSWANA S DEPENDENCE ON EUROPEAN MARKETS. ALTHOUGH EUROPE IS STILL THE MOST LOGICAL OUTLET FOR BMC S MORE EXPENSIVE CLASS OF BEEF, THE CANNERY PRODUCTION, WHEN ADDED TO 200 TONS OF CHEAPER CUTS ALREADY IMPORTED WEEKLY BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, DOES PROVIDE SOME CUSHION AGAINST COMPLETE SHUT-DOWN IN TIMES OF CRISIS, E.G., DURING THE RECENT (AND TO SOME EXTENT STILL CONTINUING) DENIAL

OF EC MARKETS TO BOTSWANA BECAUSE OF FMD OUTBREAK.  
ALBERTI

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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